



AMERICAN CONNECTIONS

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

La Paz, Bolivia

APRIL 2012

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Contact Us

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Regular Hours 216-8246
After Hours (Emergencies Only)
715-33713

E-mail:

consularlapaz@state.gov

Web Page:

<http://bolivia.usembassy.gov>

Hours of Operation

LA PAZ

Mondays through
Thursdays
08:00 to 12:00
13:00 to 15:00

COCHABAMBA

Mondays, Tuesdays and
Thursdays
8:30 to 12:30
Wednesdays
13:30 to 17:30

SANTA CRUZ

Mondays through
Thursdays
9:00 to 12:00

*(except U.S. and local
holidays)*



Absentee Voting Information 2012 for U.S. Citizens

Overseas voters are eligible to vote in presidential primary elections and in state primary elections for federal offices (Senator, Representative) as well as the general elections in November 2012. In some States, overseas voters may vote in state and local elections. The online tool available at www.fvap.gov lets you know in which state and local elections you may vote. To vote, please register and request an absentee ballot at www.fvap.gov every year – even if you have previously voted overseas – and when you change your name, address or email.

The 2012 Elections

The **Federal Voting Assistance Program** at www.fvap.gov offers all the information for absentee voting, including downloadable absentee ballot applications and write-in ballots, state-specific instructions, links to state and local officials, and a downloadable emergency ballot to use when requested materials fail to arrive in time.

What information do you need to register?

The process to register to vote varies from state to state. First select the state of your (last) U.S. residence. Residence requirements and proof of residence do vary from state to state, but in most cases all you need to provide is the following information:

- First, Middle and Last Name
- Telephone number
- Email
- Date of Birth
- Driver's License or ID Number OR Social Security Number
- Last address in the U.S.
- Address abroad

Basic Absentee Voting Process

- * Complete an application form online or on printed form and send it to local election officials in your State in the U.S.
- * The local election officials in the U.S. approves your request or contacts you for further information
- * The local election officials in the U.S. sends you an absentee ballot
- * You vote using the ballot and send it back in time to meet your state's deadline

Absentee Voting Information 2012 for U.S. Citizens (Cont.)

Register to Vote and Request an Absentee Ballot

You may download the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at <http://fvap.gov/pubs/fpca.html> or fill out the paper form available at the American Citizen Services section at the U.S. Embassy or at the Consular Agencies in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. Fill out the FPCA and send it to the local election office of your state. All election offices are listed by state at www.fvap.gov. Print and use the postage-paid envelope template at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/returnenvelope.pdf> when sending election materials back to the U.S. via the embassy diplomatic pouch.

Voters can either drop off their forms and ballots any time between Monday and Friday, 8 am to 5 pm at the reception booth of the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, located in Ave. Arce 2780, or at the consular agencies in Santa Cruz or Cochabamba, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 12 pm, or make an appointment online in La Paz, Santa Cruz or Cochabamba through our web page at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/service.html> so they can hand in their form and ballot to Consular staff. Ballots and forms will be date-stamped and mailed to the U.S. free of charge via the diplomatic pouch. Voters can also use the post offices in Bolivia, but please be aware that you will have to purchase Bolivian postage.

What about my state's requirements?

Each state establishes its own voting procedures and requirements. It is important to be aware of your state's **deadlines for registration**.

Specific information about your state's procedures is available at <http://fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html#ch3>. A complete 2012 election calendar is available at <http://fvap.gov/pubs/primarycal.html>

There may be last minute changes to your state's voting calendar, procedures or deadlines. When these occur, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will issue a News Release <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/releases.html>. To add your name to the distribution list for News Releases, send an e-mail to vote@fvap.ncr.gov.

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office at <http://www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/wheresendfpca.html>, or visit your [State website](#).

Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

The FWAB is a backup ballot. If 30 days before the election, you think you will not receive your State ballot in time to vote and return it, vote the FWAB at www.fvap.gov/pubs/ofwab.pdf. The FWAB is also available in embassies and consular agencies.

In the event the state absentee ballot is not received by early October, the FWAB is available online at www.fvap.gov/pubs/ofwab.pdf. **If your state ballot arrives after you sent in your Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, still send in your state ballot.**



Register and Request Your Ballot for Upcoming Primaries (Cont.)

Voters from these states should visit the FVAP.gov web portal to register and request their absentee ballot for the April, May, and June 2012 Presidential Preference Primary (P) and State Primary (S) elections listed below:

April Primaries:

NOTE: for April Primaries: If you have not received your requested State ballot, submit the back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot at FVAP.gov (see FWAB information below).

- District of Columbia (P,S): April 3
- Maryland (P,S): April 3
- Wisconsin (P): April 3
- Alabama (Primary Runoff): April 24
- Connecticut (P): April 24
- Delaware (P): April 24
- New York (P): April 24
- Pennsylvania (P,S): April 24
- Rhode Island (P): April 24

May Primaries:

- Indiana (P,S): May 8
- North Carolina (P,S): May 8
- West Virginia (P,S): May 8
- Idaho (P,S): May 15
- Nebraska (P,S): May 15
- Oregon (P,S): May 15
- Arkansas (P,S): May 22
- Kentucky (P,S): May 22
- Texas (P,S): May 29 (This is a change; the election was originally scheduled for March 6, then April 3)

June Primaries:

- California(P, S): June 5
- Iowa (S): June 5
- Montana (P, S): June 5
- New Jersey (P, S): June 5
- New Mexico (P, S): June 5
- South Dakota (P, S): June 5
- Arkansas (Primary Runoff): June 12
- Maine (S): June 12
- Nevada (S): June 12



Voting Outreach in Bolivia

We would like to thank all of you who attended the Town Hall meetings on American Citizens Services, including Absentee Voting, in La Paz, Santa Cruz and Tarija. We appreciated your taking the time for the meeting and your active participation.

The next Town Hall Meetings will take place:

- in Cochabamba on Thursday, April 12 from 6-8 p.m. at Centro Boliviano Americano, Calle 25 de Mayo #0365, and
- in Sucre on Thursday, April 26 from 6-8 p.m. at Centro Boliviano Americano, Calle Calvo 301, esq. Potosi.

New Web Pages for U.S. Citizens Services

We would like to invite you to visit the new web pages for U.S. Citizens Services at the U.S. Embassy website (<http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/>). Under the U.S. Citizen services tab, you will find information on Emergency Contact; Office Hours, Location and Contact Information; Our Services to U.S. Citizens; Embassy Notices; Information on Translators, Lawyers and Physicians; Voting Overseas, and Living in Bolivia.



New Consular Assistant at Consular Agency in Santa Cruz

We are pleased to announce that Consular Assistant Yolanda Yorimoto has recently joined our team at the Consular Agency in Santa Cruz. She will work with our Consular Agent Nicole Martinez, whom many of you already know. Yolanda is a longtime resident of Santa Cruz and is a tremendous asset to our Embassy and American citizen community. Welcome, Yolanda!

Your Recommendations for Our Lists of Doctors, Lawyers, and Translators

Did you know that the U.S. Embassy maintains a list of English-speaking doctors, lawyers, and translators throughout Bolivia? The lists are divided by geographic region and specialization and can serve as a resource when you are looking for a service provider. These lists are published on our website and provided to anyone who requests them. Please note that the U.S. Embassy cannot assume responsibility for the professional ability, appropriateness or integrity of any of these service providers.

In an effort to update and augment our doctor, lawyer, and translator lists, we would like to ask you for your recommendations. If you know of any English-speaking service providers whom you have been happy with, please refer them to the U.S. Embassy in La Paz or the consular agencies in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz to ask about being added to the list. They must simply provide a letter requesting their inclusion along with a copy of their résumé to the Consular Section via consularlapaz@state.gov. We will do the rest!

New IRS Form for Overseas Taxpayers

The Internal Revenue Service has requested that the Department of State bring a new information reporting form that taxpayers will use starting this tax filing season to report specified foreign financial assets for tax year 2011 to the attention of U.S. citizens abroad.

The Form 8938 (Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets) should be filed by taxpayers with specific types and amounts of foreign financial assets or foreign accounts. It is important for taxpayers to determine whether they are subject to this new requirement because the law imposes significant penalties for failing to comply.

Form 8938, the instructions, regulations implementing this new foreign asset report, and other information to help taxpayers determine if they are required to file Form 8938 is available on the web at:

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/corporations/article/0,,id=236667,00.html>

List of Upcoming Holidays To Be Observed by the U.S. Mission

The U.S. Embassy and the Consular Agencies will be closed on the following U.S. and Bolivian holidays:

Good Friday	April 6
Labor Day	May 1
Memorial Day	May 28
Corpus Christi	June 7
Winter Solstice (Aymara New Year)	June 21